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NEWS RELEASE

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**Senate Confirms Nomination of Mary H. Murguia
to Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals**

SAN FRANCISCO – The United States Senate has confirmed President Obama’s nomination of Mary H. Murguia, currently a federal trial court judge in Arizona, to serve as a judge of the United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit. The nomination was confirmed today on a roll call vote of 89-0.

Judge Murguia is expected to receive her commission shortly and will maintain chambers in Phoenix. She will fill a judgeship vacant since February 12, 2010, when Ninth Circuit Judge Michael Daly Hawkins, also of Arizona, took senior status.

Judge Murguia was nominated for the judgeship on March 25 and appeared before the Senate Judiciary Committee on July 15. Her nomination was favorably reported to the full Senate on August 5.

Judge Murguia, 50, has served on the U.S. District Court for the District of Arizona since 2000. Nominated by President Clinton, she is the first Latina to serve on the Arizona federal bench. Judge Murguia maintains chambers in Phoenix.

Prior to coming onto the bench, Judge Murguia was a federal and state prosecutor. She worked in the criminal section of the Office of the U.S. Attorney for the District of Arizona from 1990 to 2000, serving as chief criminal deputy from 1994 to 1998. In 1998, Judge Murguia joined the Executive Office for United States Attorneys at the Department of Justice in Washington, D.C., where she served as counsel to the director's staff, principal deputy director and director.

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Judge Murguia began her legal career in 1985 with the Wyandotte County District Attorney's Office in Kansas City, Kansas.

Born and raised in Kansas City, Kansas, Judge Murguia received both a B.A. and B.S. from the University of Kansas in 1982. She earned her J.D. from the University of Kansas School of Law in 1985.

Judges of the federal appellate courts, appointed under Article III of the Constitution, are nominated by the president, confirmed by the Senate and serve lifetime appointments upon good behavior. Their current annual salary is \$184,500.

The Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals is authorized 29 active judgeships and currently has three vacancies

The Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals hears appeals of cases decided by executive branch agencies and federal trial courts in nine western states and two Pacific Island jurisdictions. The court normally meets monthly in Seattle, Washington, San Francisco, California, and Pasadena, California; every other month in Portland, Oregon; three times per year in Honolulu, Hawaii; and twice a year in Anchorage, Alaska. The court reported 12,223 appeals filed in 2009.

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